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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/556,963	04/21/2000	Bradley S. Tagg	13116(END999-099)	6297

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EXAMINER

CHANG, JUNGWON

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2154	

DATE MAILED: 10/07/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Applicati n No.

09/556,963

Applicant(s)

TAGG, BRADLEY S.

Examiner

Jungwon Chang

Art Unit

2154

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 April 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-44 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-44 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-44 are presented for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Abu-Hakima (US 6,499,021 B1) in view of Mehr et al. (US 6,438,547 B1), hereinafter Mehr.

4. As to claims 1, 15 and 31, Abu-Hakima discloses the invention substantially as claimed, including a method for navigating between two or more programs (col. 2, lines 4-9 and 35-39), each program capable of being instantiated to form a program instance (col. 3, lines 37-43), said method comprising the steps of:

- (a) embedding and enabling engine in an origin program and instantiating the origin program (10-70, fig. 1; col. 3, lines 46-54);
- (b) invoking the enabling engine for the origin program instance which is responsive to the origin program instance for enabling navigation (col. 4, lines 14-26);

(c) interrogating a rule-base and retrieving one or more conditions associated with the origin program instance (col. 7, lines 25-58; col. 8, lines 36-58);

(d) utilizing said one or more conditions to query and evaluate data managed by the origin program instance (col. 8, line 57 – col. 9, line 17; col. 9, line 66 – col. 10, line 12); and

(e) utilizing results of said evaluation (col. 9, lines 10-17; col. 10, lines 37-40).

5. Abu-Hakima does not specifically disclose displaying one or more navigation paths to a user via a graphical display. However, Mehr discloses displaying one or more navigation paths to a user via a graphical display (col. 9, lines 26-38). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Abu-Hakima and Mehr because Mehr's displaying the navigation paths to the user would enhance the performance by allowing the user to execute the desired program by simply selecting the navigation path.

6. As to claims 3, 17 and 33, Abu-Hakima discloses said rule-base includes one or more actions associated with said origin program instance, said method further comprising the step of: instantiating a target program, which is a function of the user selection of the navigation path and navigating to the target program instance by utilizing at least one of said one or more actions (col. 9, lines 42-65).

7. As to claims 4, 18 and 34, Abu-Hakima further discloses storing and retaining a navigation path associated with the origin program instance (col. 9, lines 10-15).

8. As to claims 5, 8, 19, 22, 35 and 38, Abu-Hakima does not specifically use a word "web browser". However, Abu-Hakima discloses a client is connected to network and Internet Service Provider (fig. 5). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that web browser resides in client's computer is a software which allows a user to communicate with a server through network that is well known in the art.

Abu-Hakima does not specifically disclose enabling the user to navigate backwards from the target program instance to the origin program instance. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that web browser includes a toolbar that has toolbar functions, such as back and forward that enable the user to backtrack to previous program that is well known in the art.

9. As to claims 6, 20 and 36, Abu-Hakima discloses utilizing state data managed by the origin program instance and role of said user for evaluating one or more navigation paths available to the user.

10. As to claims 7, 21 and 37, Abu-Hakima discloses performing remaining actions from said one or more actions not utilized for executing functionality supported by the target program instance.

Art Unit: 2154

11. As to claims 9, 10, 23, 24, 39 and 40, Abu-Hakima discloses rule-base resides on a network or locally on the user's system (col. 7, lines 25-58; col. 8, lines 36-58).

12. As to claims 11-13, 25-27 and 41-43, they are rejected for the same reasons set forth in claims 5, 8, 19, 22, 35 and 38 above.

13. As to claims 14, 28 and 44, Abu-Hakima further discloses functionality supported by the target program is displaying a particular web page (col. 10, lines 6-10; col. 11, lines 10-14).

14. As to claims 29 and 30, Abu-Hakima further discloses program is an application program (col. 3, lines 37-43).

15. As to claims 2, 16 and 32, they are rejected for the same reasons set forth in claims 1, 15 and 31 above.

Conclusion

16. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

Art Unit: 2154

Zahn, patent 6,415,275 B1, Hellerstein et al, patent 6,330,564 B1, Zellweger, patent 6,401,096 B1, McKnight, patent 6,557,035 B1 disclose a method and system for processing rules.

Kiger, "Expert System & Lotus Notes applications for Retrieval of problem-solving Knowledge & Information, IEEE, 1996;

Reinwald et al, "Structured Workflow Management with Lotus Notes Release 4", IEEE, 1996;

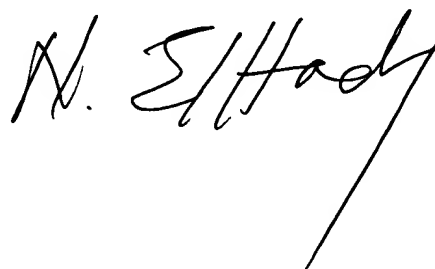
Vandenbosch et al, "Lotus Notes and Collaboration: Le plus ca change", IEEE, 1996 disclose Lotus Notes.

17. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jungwon Chang whose telephone number is (703)305-9669. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30-6:00 (Monday-Friday).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Meng-Ai An can be reached on (703)308-9052. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)305-9669.

Jungwon Chang
September 30, 2003

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "N. S/Hady", with a long diagonal stroke extending from the bottom right.